

## ABSTRACT

In a semiconductor integrated circuit having a register file of a multiport configuration, a first holding circuit **20A** is dedicated to a first functional block having one first write port section **21AW** and two first read port sections **21AR1** and **21AR2**. A second holding circuit **30B** is dedicated to a second functional block having one second write port section **31AW** and one second read port section **31BR**. When it is necessary to read data held in the first holding circuit **20A** from the second read port section **31BR**, for example, a data interchange operation is performed as follows. After the data of the second holding circuit **30B** is latched in a latch circuit **40**, the data of the first holding circuit **20A** is transferred to the second holding circuit **30B**, and then the data of the second holding circuit **30B** latched in the latch circuit **40** is transferred to the first holding circuit **20A**. Thus, the area necessary to provide a register file is significantly reduced.